

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**April 8, 2008**

**(Originally scheduled for April 21, 2008)**

**7:00 p.m.**

**The New Shoreham Committee met in open session on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Shea Butcher was not in attendance. Leslie Ryan and Davida Irving were also present.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to accept the minutes of the meeting held on March 17, 2008, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.**

## **Reports**

**Annie Hall reported that during its most recent meeting the Wellness Committee discussed the outside physical fitness equipment for middle and high school students and mental health issues. Currently there is no mental health provider on Block Island who can prescribe meds for someone with a mental health issue. Dr. Irving will make phone calls to see about the possibility of providing a nine-month internship for someone.**

**William Padien reported that the Town Council approved a proclamation, which will be sent to the state legislature, to exempt Block Island from the 30/50 property tax and the school funding formula. This was based on all the unique characteristics of Block Island and the fact that a yearly financial town meeting is still held, which gives the tax payers an opportunity to vote on the budget.**

**Mr. Padien stated that a second proclamation will be sent to the legislature asking that Block Island be exempt from the law requiring schools to be closed on general election and statewide primary days.**

**Mr. Padien updated the School Committee regarding the suit against H.V. Collins Company, which was scheduled to go to arbitration in March. A tentative agreement has been made with the town agreeing to pay an additional \$525,000. There is \$200,000 remaining in the construction budget, but the voters at the financial town meeting would have to agree to bond an additional \$325,000 or to take it from reserve funds. H.V. Collins was asking for \$730,000 plus 24 percent interest. If this goes to arbitration the potential is high that it could cost the town anywhere from \$528,000 to \$720,000 or more when the arbitration and interest costs are included. H.V. Collins will fix the leak in the gym and try to fix the leak in the hallway, but will not address the punch list. We have 10 days to develop a final punch list for which the town will try to find the money. Amended at the School**

**Committee meeting held on May 19, 2008: Sean McGarry made the following comment: After spending such an enormous amount of my time attending all building related meetings since my election, I was very displeased to hear that the Town Council, without any input from the three principles in the H.V. Collins dispute (myself, Bill Padien, and Nancy Dodge), came to an agreement. All three of us were in agreement that we could not request the tax payers to fund a settlement without an arbitrator's decision. Collins' request for any funds beyond the contracted amount is ludicrous. The job remains unfinished and will not be finished with the settlement except for the CMU leak in the gym and another attempt at the roof leaks. The tax payers and students of Block Island have been dealt a grave injustice and I would never have voted in favor of a settlement prior to arbitration.**

**Mr. Padien stated that an offer has been sent to the insurance company in the suit against Ken Filarski. The town hopes to have this settled before the financial town meeting.**

**Dr. Irving presented Matthew Moran's written athletic report in his absence.**

**Dr. Irving reported on the following:**

- The most recent Student of the Week was Mikhaela Brown-Padien.**
- On Wednesday, March 19 Lisa Starr met with students in grades 4-7 and 9-12 to create writing circles at the Block Island School which**

may eventually become a part of the statewide poetry pen-pal system that she has initiated as Poet Laureate for the State of Rhode Island.

- Also on March 19 parents of students in grades 3-8 attended a New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Student Report Night in the school library. Parents received their children's test scores and an explanation on how to interpret them. Also at this meeting Socha Cohen presented a workshop for parents on strategies to help their children with homework and how to be successful in school, including whether their children would benefit from the Homework Club for grades 4-7 that meets after school Monday through Thursday.

- An SAT review course, which is being provided by a California company, Revolution Review, is well into its third week. Students meet two days a week in the school library where they take practice tests and study with an instructor online. They are finding the program to be beneficial.

- On April 2 Dr. Miller and Public Health Nurse Mary Donnelly conducted scoliosis screening for the students in grades 7-12.

- On April 4-7 the seventh grade students, along with Shannon Cotter and Greta Heinz, attended Teen Institute.

- On April 7 Block Island School held its first lock down drill as required by the Department of Education.

- Vicky Carson has arranged for representatives from the RI Blood Center to visit the school to discuss various informative topics relating to blood and blood donation.

- On Wednesday evening, April 23 there will be an informal group

**presentation of the senior projects, which is open to the public. The formal presentations for faculty members only will be held on April 28 and 29.**

- On May 6 and 7 next year's kindergarten students will have an opportunity to visit the school from 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that she had attended two statewide meetings regarding new IEP and IDEA regulations and will inform the teachers in an upcoming faculty meeting.**

**Mrs. Ryan hopes to have the School Improvement Team goals and objectives ready to present to the School Committee at the May or June meeting to determine how to address and meet them.**

**Mrs. Ryan made several suggestions for the upcoming "senior dinner," which included soliciting bids from several restaurants for this non-alcohol event. The senior class could invite two or three chaperones to join them for dinner or continue the tradition of having dinner with the School Committee. Sean McGarry explained that it had been decided to cut back on the funding by having the School Committee and other adults pay for their dinners. The school would pick up the tab for the students' dinners, but students still have the option of picking the restaurant.**

## **Old Business**

**At last month's meeting a motion was approved to have Mr. Padien**

and Mr. Butcher negotiate with Offshore Framing & Renovations, LLC regarding the bid submitted in the amount of \$3,728 to install the outdoor basketball structure. Mr. Padien reported that they met with Kevin Hoyt and the work will begin next week. A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to award the bid in the amount of \$3728 to Offshore Framing & Renovations, LLC carried with a vote 4-0.

At last month's meeting School Committee members questioned whether school could be in session on September 9 and/or November 4 (statewide primary and general election days). State statutes § 17-18-15, 17-15-1, and 17-1-2(2), which stipulate that schools throughout the state shall not be in session on general election or statewide primary days, were submitted for review. A motion (McGarry, Tretheway) to adopt the 2008-2009 school calendar as presented was later withdrawn because Dr. Irving asked that one day be added to the winter recess to give everyone an additional travel day. This would move the last day of school to Thursday, June 18. A motion (McGarry, Tretheway) to amend the 2008-2009 school calendar to include Monday, February 23 as part of the winter recess, making June 18 the last day of school and June 25 a make-up day carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **New Business**

Facility use fee waivers were received for three adult education courses (Beginners Latin Dance, Tips for Parents of Teens, and Making Movies on your Mac) and a motorcycle class sponsored by

**the Recreation Department. Mrs. Ryan recommended that fees for these activities be waived, but as of September 1 each activity would be individually assessed for facility usage and a fee charged depending on the number of nights and hours of use. Mr. Padien reported that he had mentioned to the Town Council that the School Committee could not afford to waive the facility use fees next year, but it did not go over well. A discussion will be held at a future meeting so that all can be in place for the beginning of the 2008-09 school year. A motion (Padien, Hall) to waive the facility use fee for the adult education classes carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to waive the facility use fee for the motorcycle class sponsored by the Recreation Department carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to accept with regret John Kisseberth's resignation as the assistant coach for junior high softball carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to accept the resignation of Matthew Moran as head coach for varsity baseball carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**A motion (Tretheway, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Susan Gibbons as the secondary science teacher beginning September 2008 carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of John Tarbox as the head coach for varsity baseball carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**A motion (Padien, McGarry) to consent to the appointment of Lisa Sprague as the assistant coach for the junior high softball team pending receipt of her coaching certification carried with a vote of 4-0.**

### **Calendar of Events**

**A calendar of events for the months of April and May was submitted for School Committee information.**

### **Correspondence**

**Correspondence was submitted for School Committee information.**

### **Adjournment**

**A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 7:56 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: May 19, 2008**